

Message Text

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22

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DEPARTMENT FOR A AND WE; VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR
CAPTAIN HOWE

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL MARCH 23, 1976

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON B.), FR

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED TOAST FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT AT
PRESIDENT Giscard's LUNCHEON MARCH 22

1. MR. PRESIDENT: IT IS MY PLEASURE AND HONOR TO
BRING TO YOU, AND THROUGH YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE,
THE GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES OF THE PEOPLE AND
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

2. AS WE APPROACH THE TWO-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR
DECLARED INDEPENDENCE AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, AND MORE
SIGNIFICANTLY AS A SOVEREIGN PEOPLE, THESE WISHES
CARRY AN ADDED SIGNIFICANCE, FOR THE FUTURE AS FOR
THE PAST.

3. FOR BOTH OUR PAST AND FUTURE WE FIND APT WORDS IN
THE GREAT DECLARATION WE WILL BE CELEBRATING FOR THE
TWO-HUNDREDTH TIME ON JULY 4. THE LIBERTY AMERICANS
CELEBRATE BECAME REAL IN LARGE PART BECAUSE FRENCHMEN
JOINED US IN THE PLEDGE OF "OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES,
AND OUR SACRED HONOR." TWICE IN THIS CENTURY WE HAVE
BEEN AGAIN SO JOINED IN CONVULSIVE CONFLICTS WHERE THE
FATE OF CIVILIZATION HAS BEEN IN THE BALANCE.

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4. WE ARE STILL ALLIES; AS THE PLEDGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HONORED IT HAS ALSO BEEN RENEWED. TODAY, PERHAPS MORE THAN EVER, THE PRICE OF OUR CHERISHED LIBERTIES IS AN ETERNAL VIGILANCE THAT, ON OUR EVER MORE COMPLEX AND INTERRELATED WORLD, WE MUST PURSUE IN CONCERT. TO BE IN HARMONY WE NEED PLAY NEITHER THE SAME INSTRUMENT NOR THE SAME NOTE, BUT WE MUST PLAY FROM THE SAME GRAND SCORE OF POLITICAL LIBERTY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP, AND INDIVIDUAL FULFILLMENT THAT ARE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF OUR TWO SOCIETIES. FOR THE FUTURE AS FOR THE PAST, OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES, AND OUR SACRED HONOR ARE STILL INEXTRICABLY BOUND TOGETHER IN THE WORLD WE BEQUEATH TO THE COMING CENTURY.

5. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE WELCOME YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN MAY. YOU DO US SPECIAL HONOR BY COMING IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR TO TAKE PART IN THE FESTIVITIES OF A FREE PEOPLE REJOICING STILL IN THEIR SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENCE.

6. WE HOPE TO WELCOME YOU TO AMERICAN SOIL AS WE ONCE WELCOMED GENERAL ROCHAMBEAU, ADMIRAL D'ESTAING AND GENERAL LAFAYETTE, AND THE THOUSANDS WHO BORE HUMBLER NAMES BUT WERE EQUAL HEROES, ALL THE MORE BECAUSE YOUR MISSION IS ONE OF PEACE.

7. MR. PRESIDENT, I RAISE MY GLASS TO YOU AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE.
RUSH

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